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## Congressman Greg Walden's Oregon Congressional Connection

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### *Your Direct Link to the News and Events in the Nation's Capital*

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Dear Fellow Oregonian:

The hectic days are quickly returning to Capitol Hill as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress gets into full swing. Today at I testified before the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health about eco-terrorism in Oregon and across the United States. Be sure to read further to learn more about the hearing and the eco-terrorism that it addressed.

In this edition of the Oregon Congressional Connection, I've included information about an upcoming Resources Committee hearing on the recently released National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report regarding the shut-off of irrigation water to the Klamath Basin. I've also included information on the House floor schedule for this week, including legislation we'll take up and the schedule for committee hearings. Finally, there's information about the next session of the Republican Page Program for high school students. As always, you can find additional information about developments in Congress on my web site at [www.walden.house.gov](http://www.walden.house.gov).

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else taking place in Congress and our nation's capital, please e-mail me at [greg.walden@mail.house.gov](mailto:greg.walden@mail.house.gov). My staff and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

I hope you find this week's Oregon Congressional Connection informative. Thank you.

God Bless America.

Congressman Greg Walden

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### **Klamath Update**

I'm doing everything I can to make sure no one misses hearing about the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on endangered species in the Klamath Basin that was released last week. Toward that end, I convinced my colleagues on the Resources Committee to hold a hearing on the report to learn more about the federal government's decision to shut off water to farmers and ranchers in the Basin last year. The hearing will also give members an opportunity to learn more about the review of the scientific data that is used in making endangered species listings. On March 13, the Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, of which I'm the Vice Chairman, will hold a public hearing in Washington, D.C. To learn more about the Resources Committee or the hearing itself, please take a moment to visit the committee's web site at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>.

When the Resources Committee held its field hearing in Klamath Falls last May, we heard over and over again about the need for peer-reviewed science. We also heard time and again that the science didn't back up the decisions of the government. The National Academy of Sciences report confirms both points. It is important to make sure that the members of the Resources Committee understand the importance of peer-reviewed science and the impact these decisions have had on the people of the Klamath Basin.

The NAS report, entitled "Scientific Evaluation of the Biological Opinions on Endangered and Threatened Fishes in the Klamath River Basin," found no scientific basis to justify higher lake levels on Upper Klamath Lake to protect sucker fish, nor higher minimum flows in the Klamath River to help Coho Salmon. Ironically, without the NAS report the National Marine Fisheries Service would not have known that the continued dumping of warm water into the Klamath River might be lethal to the very fish they were trying to help. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have continued insisting on high lake levels when there's no science that shows higher lake levels help the suckers. Combined, the two actions were not backed by science and both worked to ruin the agricultural economy of the Basin last year.

I'm hopeful this hearing will lead to action on my legislation (H.R. 2829) to require peer review of the science used in Endangered Species Act listings, delistings, consultations and recovery plans. I don't care which end of the environmental spectrum you're on. At

a minimum we should make sure that the science is sound and the decisions are based on the science. As you can see from the situation in the Klamath Basin, neither the fish nor the farmers and ranchers were helped.

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### **District Wrap Up**

On Monday, February 11, 2002, the House was not in session. I took the opportunity to tour a local business in my hometown of Hood River before jumping on a flight back to Washington, D.C. Below was my schedule for the day.

8:00 to 9:00 AM – I toured the facilities of the Advanced Navigation and Positioning Corporation, which is based in Hood River. ANPC employs a significant number of Hood River residents, and I was delighted to visit their workplace.

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### **ELF Testimony**

This afternoon I testified before the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health at an oversight hearing entitled, "Eco-terrorism and Lawlessness on the National Forests." The hearing focused on criminal acts committed by the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Joining me were Oregon Congresswoman Darlene Hooley and Washington Congressman George Nethercutt. The hearing also featured testimony by Craig Rosebraugh, spokesman for ELF, who was subpoenaed for the hearing.

This hearing was held to draw attention to the fact that whatever the ideological motivation behind it, terrorism of any kind is a grave crime. In Oregon and across the United States, terrorists have burned and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property and spread fear through entire communities. It's important for the public to understand that people who commit acts of violence in the name of their political beliefs are terrorists – no more or less than the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks. They all share in the supremely arrogant notion that they cannot be bothered with the democratic process to advance their agenda and that violence is an appropriate means of furthering their beliefs."

Oregon's 2<sup>nd</sup> District has seen three acts of terrorism for which ELF or ELF/ALF has taken credit in recent years. On July 21, 1997, an arson fire at Cavel West meat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon, claimed jointly by ELF/ALF resulted in \$1.4 million in damage. This firebombing was followed by a November 29, 1997, attack on several Bureau of Land Management (BLM) horse corrals in Burns, Oregon, also a jointly claimed attack. This attack resulted in over \$450,000 in damage and the release of 539 horses. Finally, on December 27, 1998, ELF firebombed the U.S. Forest Industries headquarters in Medford, Oregon, causing \$900,000 in damage.

ELF/ALF have taken credit for numerous additional unclaimed acts of violence and destruction of private property in their 2001 "Year-End Direct Action Report," which can be accessed by visiting the ELF web site ([www.earthliberationfront.com](http://www.earthliberationfront.com)). The site also features guides to committing terrorism, such as "Setting Fires with Electrical Timers: An Earth Liberation Front Guide."

At today's hearing I also focused on the threat to human life represented by ELF/ALF attacks. The assertion that no "human or non-human animal" is at risk because of ELF/ALF attacks is ludicrous considering the severity and violent nature of the attacks perpetrated over the last four years. It is only a matter of time before an innocent life is lost in an ELF/ALF attack. That is why it is imperative to treat all acts of terrorism equally. The terrorists behind the attacks of September 11, 2001, and December 27, 1998 both used terror to further their own narrow cause. Terrorism is terrorism whether it is international, domestic, economic, religious, social or environmental.

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### **Committee Hearings – All Times Pacific**

#### **Wednesday, February 13, 2002**

6:30 AM – House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies hearing on Fiscal Year 2003 appropriations for the Agriculture Secretary. Witness: Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://www.house.gov/appropriations/>.

6:30 AM – House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on, "Challenges Facing Amateur Athletics." For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

6:45 AM – House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education hearing on appropriations on Fiscal Year 2003 for the Secretary of Labor. Witness: Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://www.house.gov/appropriations/>.

7:00 AM – House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management hearing on the implementation of H.R.2559, the Agricultural Risk Protection Act. For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://www.house.gov/appropriations/>.

7:00 AM – House Armed Services Committee full committee hearing on, "Fiscal Year 2003 National Defense Authorization Budget Request." *Witnesses:* Gordon England, secretary of the Navy; Adm. Vern Clark, chief, Naval Operations; Gen. James Jones, commandant, U.S. Marine Corps. For more information regarding this hearing, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/hasc/schedules/>.

7:00 AM – House Government Reform Committee full committee hearing entitled, "The California Trial of Joe 'The Animal' Barbosa: Did the Federal Government Support the Release of a Dangerous Mafia Assassin?" (Part One)

7:00 AM – House Veterans' Affairs Committee full committee hearing on the Veterans Affairs Department budget for Fiscal Year 2003.

7:00 AM – House Ways and Means Committee full committee hearing on the President's proposal to reduce the number of uninsured through tax credits.

10:00 AM – House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity hearing on the proposed budget for HUD for FY2003. Witness: HUD Secretary Mel Martinez

10:00 AM – House International Relations Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights hearing to examine religious persecution in China and Vietnam. To listen to this hearing live, please visit the following link:  
[http://www.house.gov/international\\_relations/schedule.htm](http://www.house.gov/international_relations/schedule.htm).

10:30 AM – House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee hearing on, "The Effect of the Bankruptcy of Enron on the Functioning of Energy Markets." For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

11:00 AM – House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations hearing on, "Enron and Beyond: Enhancing Worker Retirement Security."

11:00 AM – House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs hearing on Fiscal Year 2003 appropriations for the Secretary of State. Witness: Secretary of State Colin Powell. For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link:  
<http://www.house.gov/appropriations/>.

11:00 AM – House Small Business Committee full committee hearing on the President's Budget for the Small Business Administration for Fiscal Year 2003. Witness: Hector Barreto, Jr, administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration. To listen to this hearing live, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/smbiz/audio/index.html>.

#### **Thursday, February 14, 2002**

6:30 AM – House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Select Education hearing entitled, "Equipping Museums and Libraries for the 21st Century."

6:30 AM – House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection hearing entitled, "Are Current Financial Accounting Standards

Protecting Investors?" For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

6:30 AM – House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing entitled, "Medicare Payment Policy: Ensuring Stability and Access Through Physician Payments." For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

6:45 AM – House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education hearing on appropriations for the Labor Department, Worker Protection. For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://www.house.gov/appropriations/>.

7:00 AM – House Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee hearing on the Enron collapse. Witnesses: Kenneth Lay, former CEO, Enron Corporation.

7:00 AM – House Government Reform Committee full committee hearing on "The California Trial of Joe 'The Animal' Barbosa: Did the Federal Government Support the Release of a Dangerous Mafia Assassin?" (Part Two)

7:00 AM – House Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing FY2003 Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Energy and Mineral Program budgets. To listen to this hearing live, please visit the following link: <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/audio.htm>.

7:00 AM – House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Agency Budgets and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2003." To listen to this hearing live, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/transportation/>.

Time To Be Announced: Joint Economic Committee full committee hearing on "Reform of the IMF and World Bank." For more information regarding this hearing, please visit the following link: <http://www.house.gov/jec/>.

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### **On the House Floor – All Times Pacific**

On Monday, February 11, the House was not in session. On Tuesday, February 12, the House will meet at 9:30 AM for morning hour business and 11:00 AM for legislative business. On Wednesday, February 13, the House will meet at 7 AM for legislative business. On Thursday, February 14, the House will meet at 7 AM for legislative business. On Friday, February 15, the House will not be in session.

On February 13, the House will consider the following piece of legislation:

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**Apply for the House Page Program**

This week I'll begin accepting applications for the House Page Program summer 2002 sessions and 2002/2003 school year session. The first summer session will last from June 10 to June 28, 2002, and the second summer session will begin July 8 and conclude July 26. The school year session will begin on September 2, 2002. If you know of a high school student who may be interested in this program, make sure they contact my Washington, D.C. office to receive an application form, which must be completed no later than March 18, 2002.

Serving as a congressional page is a tremendously rewarding experience and a great honor. For high school students in Oregon who are interested in the legislative process and are eager to see the inner workings of Congress up close, I can't think of a better opportunity. I encourage every young person who has an interest in government and public policy to look into this program.

To be qualified to serve as a page, all applicants must be at least 16 years of age at the time their appointment begins and have a cumulative grade point average of a "B" or better (3.0 or 85/100) in the five major subjects. Additionally, summer program applicants may only serve as a page during the summer before or the summer following their junior year of high school. Applicants must provide their Social Security number, signed parental consent form, official transcript of all high school grades to date, a 50-100 word essay explaining why they want to be a Republican Page, resume of extra-curricular activities, and three letters of recommendation. Candidates for the Page Program are chosen by Congressman Walden based on their academic performance, extra curricular involvement, and character.

Beginning at 6:45 AM, each weekday the school-year pages attend five 40-minute classes at the Page School, which is accredited by the Middle Schools Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Following their studies, pages perform duties for Members of Congress and their staffs beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding when the House adjourns for the day. These duties typically include mail delivery, answering phones, and other administrative tasks. The summer pages do not attend school. All pages are required to live at the Page Residence Hall under the supervision of a director and several proctors who reside on the premises. Male and female pages are housed on different floors.

Pages are paid approximately \$1,344 per month to cover the cost of the page dormitory, meals and additional expenses. Pages are not permitted to interrupt their studies or work responsibilities to return home for family events during their service.

Due to continued delays in regular mail delivery as a result of the anthrax attacks of last fall, Oregonians who are interested in the House Page Program are encouraged to request

applications from Congressman Walden via fax at (202) 225-5774 or via email at [joel.willard@mail.house.gov](mailto:joel.willard@mail.house.gov).

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### **Online Survey on [www.walden.house.gov](http://www.walden.house.gov)**

In order to keep abreast of the issues that matter most to Oregonians, I've added a new online survey to my web site at [www.walden.house.gov](http://www.walden.house.gov). If you have not already done so, I hope you'll take a moment to register your positions. And please tell your friends, family and coworkers about the new survey and encourage them to fill it out.

My survey asks Oregonians their opinions on a variety of local and national issues, including the war on terrorism, education reform, efforts to stimulate the economy, and the federal government's natural resource policies. Keeping informed about the positions of the people I represent in Congress is critical to my being able to serve them effectively.

My web site also contains a year-end congressional report to taxpayers in Oregon, regular updates on the Klamath Basin crisis, and other developments in Congress.

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### **Sending mail to Capitol Hill**

Regular U.S. mail delivery to my congressional office in Washington, D.C. continues to be slow and unreliable. While I was advised that mail delivery would resume in late November of 2001, the process of irradiating incoming mail to protect against bio-terrorism continues to cause lengthy delays. As a result, I have not been able to respond to a number of Oregonians who have contacted me via regular mail since early October.

Until an efficient reliable means of delivering regular mail to congressional offices is established, I encourage you to communicate with me in Washington, D.C., by fax at (202) 225-5774 and by email at [greg.walden@mail.house.gov](mailto:greg.walden@mail.house.gov). You can also send U.S. mail to my district offices in Medford and Bend at the addresses below. My district staff keeps me closely apprised of the mail I receive when I'm not in Oregon.

Medford District Office  
843 East Main Street  
Suite 400  
Medford, OR 97504

Bend District Office  
Jamison Building  
Suite 211  
131 NW Hawthorne  
Bend, OR 97701



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## **Second District Trivia**

This week's question: What Columbia River Gorge community is considered by many to be the best place in the world for windsurfing? Bonus question: What Oregon lawmaker operates a small business in the famed windsurfing community?

For the answer to this question and to take a crack at past questions, click here:

<http://www.walden.house.gov/trivia/trivia.htm>

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For more information on these and other issues, please visit my website at [www.walden.house.gov](http://www.walden.house.gov) or call my Washington, D.C., office at (202) 225-6730. You can also call my Medford office toll-free at (800) 533-3033. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to [dallas.boyd@mail.house.gov](mailto:dallas.boyd@mail.house.gov). If you'd like to be removed from the "Oregon Congressional Connection" list simply send an email to [newsletter-request@or02list.house.gov](mailto:newsletter-request@or02list.house.gov) and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.